

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

DIDACTIC PROGRAMS IN DIETETICS
ACCREDITATION REPORT AT IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Action Requested: Receive the accreditation report for the Didactic Program in Dietetics and the BS/MS Program in Diet and Exercise in the Colleges of Human Sciences and Agriculture and Life Sciences at Iowa State University.

Executive Summary: The programs prepared a Program Assessment Report which addressed the standards of accreditation defined by the accrediting body. This accreditation review fulfilled the requirement for a mid-accreditation review. The accrediting agency granted continued accreditation until 2018. This accreditation report addresses the Board of Regents Strategic Plan priorities for “access, affordability, and student success; educational excellence and impact; and economic development and vitality.”

Background:

- ◇ **Description of Didactic Program in Dietetics.** This program provides coursework for an undergraduate degree in dietetics or for concurrent undergraduate and graduate degrees in diet and exercise. Graduates of the program are eligible to apply for admission to accredited/approved dietetic internships/supervised practice programs. Upon successful completion of the internship program, graduates are eligible to take the national examination administered by the Commission on Dietetic Registration to become a Registered Dietitian (R.D.) and to practice in the field of dietetics. This program, which enrolls 70-100 students annually, is the only accredited undergraduate program in dietetics in the state of Iowa.
- ◇ **Description of BS/MS Diet and Exercise Program.** This program is designed for students interested in earning concurrent bachelor’s and master’s degrees focused on diet and exercise; students can earn both a bachelor’s and master’s degree in five to six years. The program meets the Didactic Program in Dietetics requirements for students to pursue accredited supervised practice/dietetic internships and take the national exam to become a registered dietitian.
- ◇ **Purpose of Accreditation.** An accredited educational program is recognized by its peers as having met state and national standards for its development and evaluation. To employers, graduate schools, and licensure, certification, and registration boards, graduation from an accredited program signifies adequate preparation for entry into the profession. In fact, many of these groups require graduation from an accredited program as a minimum qualification. Accreditation is also intended to protect the interests of students, benefit the public, and improve the quality of teaching, learning, research, and professional practice.
- ◇ **Accrediting Agency.** The accrediting body is the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND). The Didactic Program in Dietetics received 10-year accreditation in 2008 but was required to submit a five-year continuing accreditation review report. A site visit was not required.

- ◇ Review Process. The Program Assessment Report addressed the accrediting agency standards in the following areas – Program Characteristics and Finances; Program Planning and Outcomes Assessment; Curriculum and Student Learning Objectives; Program Staff and Resources; and Students. Complete guidelines are available at <http://www.eatright.org/ACEND/>.
- ◇ Notes from Accreditation Council. “ACEND values your commitment to the quality and continued improvement of your program as demonstrated during the accreditation process. In this spirit, the ACEND board commends your students and program for its 91% pass rate.”
- ◇ Accreditation Status. In October 2013, the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics granted continued accreditation status to the Didactic Program in Dietetics based on the Program Assessment Report. Accreditation is continued for a Didactic Program in Dietetics at the baccalaureate and master’s level. The next review and site visit are scheduled for 2018.